



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

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APR 24 2003

Mr. Jeff Morales  
Office of the Director  
Department of Transportation  
Mr. Jeff Morales  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Abhijit Bagde, Federal Programming (MS 82)

Dear Mr. Morales:

We have completed our review of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment No. 5 submitted with your letter dated April 14, 2003.

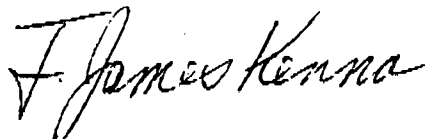
Per Caltrans, April 14, 2003, submittal letter, funding for the South Coast Transit Priorities project has already been obligated by SBMTD. We remind Caltrans and SBCAG, pursuant to 23 CFR 450.216 (a)(2), that projects outside of the triennial element are considered for informational purposes only.

We accept this Amendment in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and find that this FSTIP amendment was developed based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 5303. The changes made to the program by this amendment are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed (40 CFR Sections 93.126 and/or 93.127). This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency.

This letter also constitutes approval, and inclusion of SBCAG's Amendment No. 5 into California's 2003/2004 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program with the understanding that FTA funding approval of projects is subject to the grantees meeting the necessary administrative requirements. Our approval is based on Caltran's assurance that the funding for these projects does not adversely impact the FSTIP Financial Plan.

Sincerely,

Gary N. Hamby  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

  
fr  
Leslie T. Rogers  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration